

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT)

ORDINANCE 1982

No.30 of 1982

This amending ordinance is part of a uniform scheme which is to be applicable to all the health professions registration Ordinances in the Australian Capital Territory. Under this scheme annual registration under uniform conditions will be introduced for all registered health professions together with provisional, temporary and special registration also on a uniform basis.

Until now medical practitioners were not required to notify the Medical Board of their addresses and pay a fee annually. It is regarded as desirable that all these professions should be subject to this requirement in the interests of parity and the raising of revenue to provide in part for the costs of administering the Ordinances concerned. This requirement will also enable the various Registers to be used as more accurate guides to the numbers in each profession practising in the Territory.

The Chairman of the Medical Board was before the amendment was made already able to grant provisional permits but the amendment has replaced the existing provision with one uniform with the other registration ordinances providing for provisional registration for persons who lodge an application for registration with the Board. It lasts for a maximum period of 3 months and terminates when the Board makes a decision on the application for registration.

Temporary registration is available to practitioners from outside the Territory who are registered in a State or another Territory and wish to carry on a practice on behalf of a registered practitioner. It is limited to 3 months, renewable for a further three months but subject to a limit of 6 months in any 24 month period.

Special registration has replaced an existing permit system and is available to medical practitioners who are entitled to practise outside Australia and who are visiting the Territory in connection with research into or dissemination of knowledge of the theory and practice of the profession. Application must be made by an educational institution or appropriate professional association. The Board may grant special registration for a maximum period of one year, renewable for one year and subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board thinks fit. All types of registration are subject to fees prescribed in regulations.

Provision has been made for certificates of registration including the issue of duplicate certificates where a certificate has been lost or destroyed. There are new provisions for the notification of changes of address, for the alteration of the Register, for inspecting the Register and for obtaining certified copies of entries in the Register. Fees for these matters are prescribed in regulations.

The amendment permits the registration of eminent medical practitioners who are not otherwise entitled to registration but whose reputation and status in the medical profession are such that they should be entitled to registration. The amendment also alters the provision relating to cancellation and suspension of registration to bring it into line with current requirements and makes alterations to the appeal provisions made necessary by other changes to the principal Ordinance. Section 25 of the Ordinance which made it an offence to obtain registration by fraud has been repealed as this matter is adequately covered by other legislation.